

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 10, 12-17, 20-23, 25, 27-29 and 33-35 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoffman et al. (US PAT 5,578,869, Hoffman) in view of Crane et al. (USPAT 4,888,449, Crane). Since claim 11 has been amended herein to depend from allowed claim 10, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 11 is allowable and in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoffman, Crane and Kozono (USPAT 5,619,070). Since Applicants have canceled claim 36, the rejection of claim 36 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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